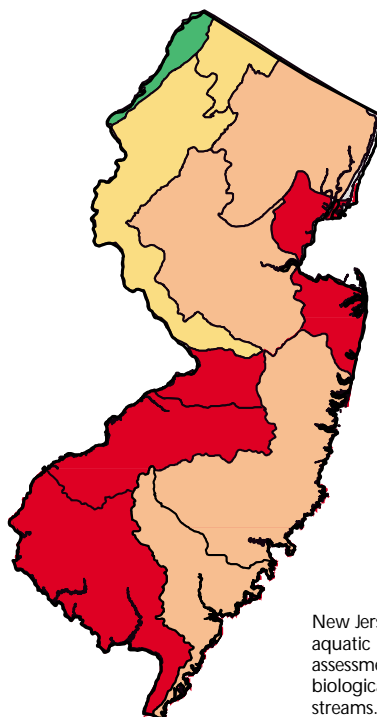


New Jersey

Percent of Assessed Rivers Meeting
Aquatic Life Designated Uses

- 80% - 100% Meeting All Uses
- 50% - 79% Meeting All Uses
- 20% - 49% Meeting All Uses
- 0% - 19% Meeting All Uses
- Insufficient Assessment Coverage
- Basin Boundaries
(USGS 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit)



New Jersey notes that aquatic life use support assessments are based on biological assessments of streams.

For a copy of the New Jersey 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Surface water quality has remained excellent in undeveloped areas. However, 12% of the 3,815 assessed stream miles exhibited severely impaired aquatic biota, 52% were moderately impaired, and 35% were not impaired. All of the state's lakes are believed to be either threatened or actively deteriorating. Estuarine and coastal waters are generally in better condition. Shad populations have increased in the Delaware River from about 150,000 in 1980 to almost 800,000 in 1996 due to improvements in water quality. New Jersey has increased acres available for shellfish harvest since 1980, and over 86% of available shellfish beds are now available for harvest. All 179

ocean beaches (127 miles) and 92% of bay bathing beaches fully support swimming. Of the remaining bay beaches, 2% partially support swimming and 6% do not support the use. Toxics in fish tissue have led to several commercial fishing bans and recreational fish consumption advisories for some species in fresh, tidal, and estuarine waters. Common surface water pollutants include bacteria, nutrients, and current and historical pesticides and industrial chemicals. Sources of pollution to New Jersey's waters include effluent; combined sewers, stormwater, and runoff; construction; historical contamination; and air deposition.

New Jersey did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

At present, there is generally an ample supply of good quality ground water in New Jersey. There are, however, problems with ground water quality in some areas. Natural contaminants in some ground waters include radium, radon, iron, sulfate, and hardness. Pollutants include mercury, bacteria, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Known contamination by industrial and waste disposal activities is being actively managed. Overpumping in some areas contributes to the incidental spread and capture of contaminant plumes and salt water intrusion. Overpumping is being addressed through conservation, source water protection, conjunctive use, and construction of new supplies.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Through implementation of the National Environmental Performance Partnership System and watershed management, New Jersey continues to develop statewide and

watershed-based environmental goals, milestones, and indicators for improvements to water quality. The Performance Partnership Agreement and, in the future, Watershed Management Plans, orients numerous water program strategies toward meeting environmental milestones.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

New Jersey uses benthic macro-invertebrate monitoring to indicate aquatic life designated use support and potential causes of impairment, including nutrients, toxics, and habitat degradation. New Jersey began implementing a redesigned chemical monitoring program that combines broad-scale, long-term monitoring with intensive, site-specific monitoring. Shellfish beds are assessed based on recent water quality data and field surveys of pollutant sources. These assessments are reflected in annual regulatory updates of shellfish harvest areas. Emergency closures of shellfish waters are made as needed based on water quality data. Ocean and bay bathing beaches are also closed as needed based on very extensive monitoring for bacterial contamination. In addition, New Jersey recently formed a Water Assessment Team to enhance data assessment capabilities.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of New Jersey's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

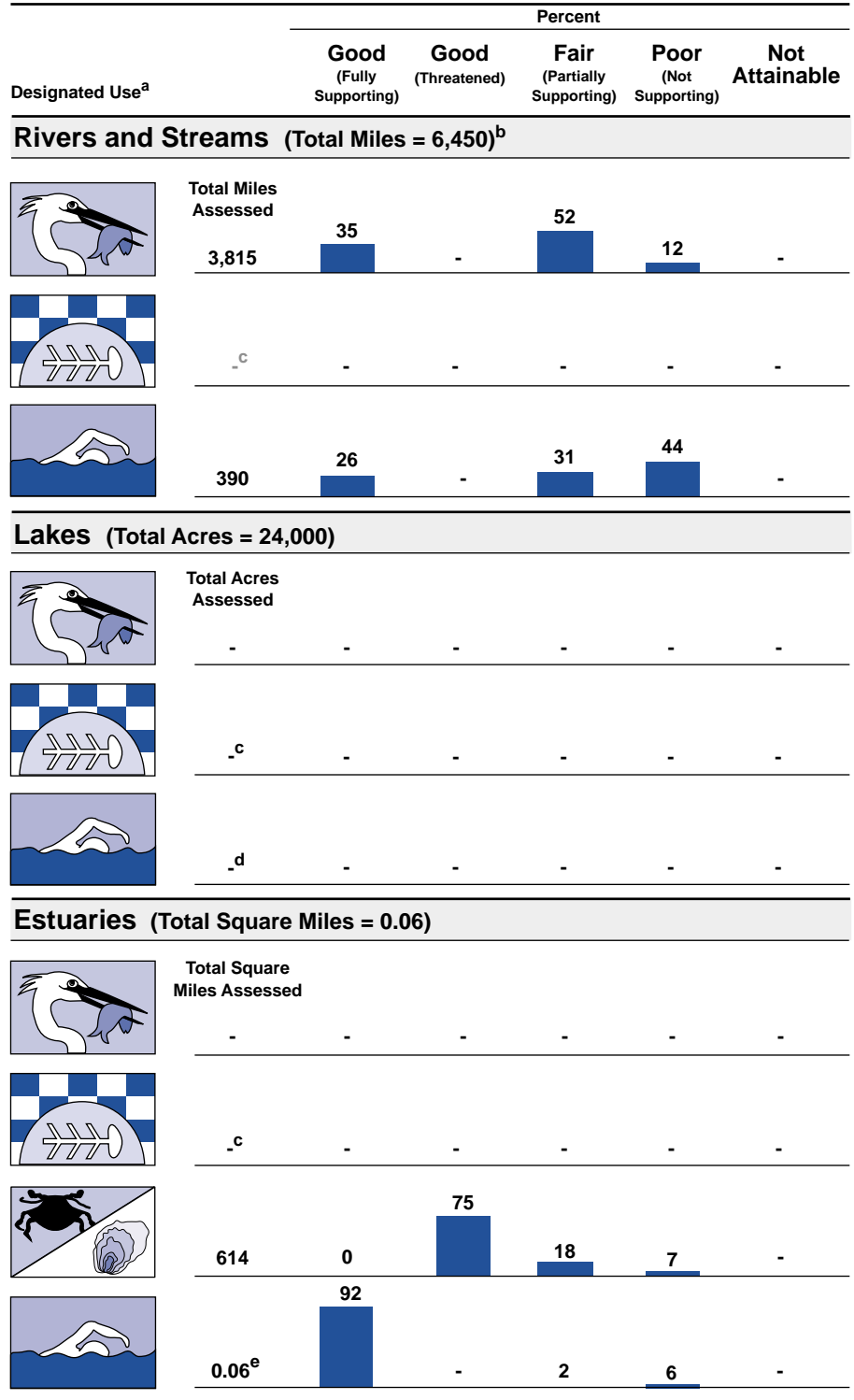
^b Includes intermittent streams.

^c New Jersey is developing an approach to report its fish advisories in the context of use support.

^d Lake bathing beach data are being compiled and will be reported in the future.

^e All estuarine waters are not assessed for recreational uses; however, the state monitors all 138 designated bay beaches and all 127 miles of ocean beaches.

Individual Use Support in New Jersey



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.